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July 9, 2000

00-159

STATEMENT ON DEATH OF EIU STUDENT NATHANIAL L. SMITH
RELEASED AFTER 2 P.M. SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2000

CHARLESTON -- Nathaniel "Nate" L. Smith, 22, of Savoy, a junior physical education major at Eastern Illinois University, died at approximately 1:35 p.m. Saturday, July 8, of acute cardiopulmonary arrest.

The incident took place at approximately 12:45 p.m. Saturday at a swimming pool in the University Court apartment complex on the EIU campus where Mr. Smith lived. Several witnesses attempted CPR on Mr. Smith before EIU police officers and paramedics arrived. He was later pronounced dead at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon.

The Coles County Coroner's Office and EIU Police Department investigated the incident.

Mr. Smith is the son of Joe and Margaret Smith of Savoy. He was attending summer classes at Eastern.

EIU student affairs and minority affairs staff met with some of Mr. Smith's closest friends Saturday evening and will be arranging transportation for students interested in attending his funeral. Arrangements were still incomplete Sunday afternoon.

"We extend our sincere sympathy to Mr. Smith's friends and family," said Lou Hencken, EIU vice president for student affairs.